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[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/kuipers/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/kuipers/)

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## **Sen. Kuipers honored by independent colleges association**

**LANSING** — The Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Michigan presented Sen. Wayne Kuipers with its annual Distinguished Service Award today for his strong support of private higher-education institutions.

“I’m proud to have been selected for this honor,” Kuipers said. “With Hope College being such a great center of higher-education in my district, I know how much private colleges contribute to our state’s educational options. Michigan wouldn’t be such a national leader in higher education without them.”

The association said each award is approved by its board and given to “outstanding leaders who, through their exemplary leadership in the provision of invaluable service to Michigan’s independent colleges and their students, have made a significant contribution to the well-being and vitality of the independent, nonprofit sector of our state’s outstanding higher-education system.”

Kuipers said he’s been a strong supporter of the Tuition Grant program, which financially assists Michigan students attending in-state private colleges. He worked to prevent the elimination of the program, which Gov. Jennifer Granholm has twice proposed.

The senator also sponsored a bill that allows students at private institutions such as Hope get tuition assistance from the state if they study theology, divinity or religious education.

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*EDITOR’S NOTE: A photo of Kuipers receiving the award is available online at  
[senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire](http://senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire)*